

'2014 Durango Raises the Bar' – Dodge CEO Tim Kuniskis

The 2014 Dodge Durango will start arriving in dealer showrooms at the end of the third quarter with a starting U.S. Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$29,795, excluding destination charge.

This makes it the best-equipped seven-seat SUV priced less than \$30,000, said Patrick Hespren, SUV and family vehicle product communications manager at Chrysler Communications.

Durango also maintains the same starting price as the 2013 model, while delivering more than \$3,500 in added content, Hespren said.

Every 2014 Dodge Durango features a standard 8-speed automatic transmission, projector headlamps, projector fog lamps, floating split crosshair grille, signature LED racetrack taillights, bright chrome or body-color accents, 18-inch or 20-inch aluminum wheels, Bluetooth, 5-inch or 8.4-inch touch screen, rotary shifter with steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters, 7-inch customizable gauge cluster, Keyless Enter 'n Go with push-button start, seven airbags, seven-passenger seating and much more.

The new 2014 Dodge Durango

competes in the fastest-growing segments in the U.S. auto industry – the full-size SUV and crossover segments, which combined are up nearly 50 percent since 2009.

Hespren said no other vehicle in those segments can match the Durango's long list of standard features and utility, including best-in-class power (up to 360 horsepower and 390 lb.-ft. of torque) best-in-class towing of up to 7,400 lbs. and best-in-class driving range of 600 miles on a tank of fuel.

"Dodge Durango is on a tremendous run, with nine months of consecutive growth," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO – Dodge Brand. "The new 2014 Durango builds on that momentum, raising the bar for performance, technology and style."

"With best-in-class power, towing, infotainment and fuel economy, the new Durango offers a combination unmatched by any other SUV or crossover in America."

"The 2014 Dodge Durango is available in five trim levels: SXT, Rallye, Limited, R/T and Citadel, all packaged to meet the needs of individual customers."

A Dodge news release stated



2014 Dodge Durango

that all 2014 Dodge Durango SXT and Limited models feature the Pentastar 3.6-liter V6 engine with 290 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque as the standard engine. The 2014 Dodge Durango SXT has a starting U.S. MSRP of \$29,795 (excluding destination charge).

The 2014 Dodge Durango Limited features a starting U.S. MSRP of \$35,995 (excluding destination charge).

The 2014 Dodge Durango R/T

has a starting U.S. MSRP of \$38,995 (excluding destination charge).

The 2014 Dodge Durango Citadel has a starting U.S. MSRP of \$40,995 (excluding destination charge).

Dodge Dart Earns IHS Accolades

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- Best New Feature – Thin Film Transistor (TFT) Display – Texas Auto Writers Association;
- Compact Car of Texas 2012 – Texas Auto Writers Association;
- Ward's 10 Best Interiors for 2012 – WardsAuto.com;
- Most Significant Vehicle – Atlanta International Auto Show – Greater Atlanta Automotive Media Association;
- Eight Great American Cars to Spend a Tax Refund On – AutoTrader.com;
- Editors' Choice Award/Most Significant Vehicle at 2012 NAIAS (AutoWeek);
- Top 10 Cars of the 2012 North American International Auto Show – Kelley Blue Book;
- Seven Hottest New Cars at the 2012 NAIAS (Vanity Fair Magazine).

GKN Headquarters Set for Auburn Hills

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and validation equipment along with additional engineering design areas for driveline and sinter metal products, Greene said. Executive management teams from both GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals will be located in the new headquarters building along with various engineering groups and other corporate activities.

The company's production facilities will be located elsewhere – in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Canada and North Carolina, Greene said.

Robert Willig, president of GKN Driveline Americas, noted that the need for additional space and resources has become paramount in view of GKN's substantial growth in recent years and the number of major new program launches planned for the Americas.

"GKN has significantly increased its engineering resources in the past four years and plans to recruit and hire even more engineering personnel to support more than 100 new program launches in the next three years for GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals," Willig said. "Our new headquar-

ters facility underlines our commitment to our customers and to the Americas.

"The increase in demand for our technology-leading driveline systems made it essential for us to find a suitable facility to support projected growth and better serve our customers."

Chris Franks, president, GKN Sinter Metals Americas, added, "The additional space is ideally located in close proximity to many of our global customers and will give us access to the additional resources needed to provide our customers with world-class precision powder-metal products and allow us to deliver on our corporate vision of providing 'Engineering That Moves The World.'"

Greene said GKN received "tremendous support" for the project by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the City of Auburn Hills. Company officials expect to break ground on the project by the end of August. The building should be finished by the first half of 2014.

"Optimistically, we hope to be in there by sometime in February, 2014," Greene said.

Avondale's Drama Department Announces Fall Lineup

Two musicals, a mystery and a drama will be featured during the regular season of The Avondale Theatre Company, Avondale High School's drama troupe.

The productions have been selected by the student board and its director for the 2013-2014 theater season.

Edmond Guay, Avondale's director for the past 26 years, allows the elected student board to make the choices for the upcoming season.

"The student board starts in mid-May," Guay said, "with a basic set of criteria for each production slot, which they themselves generate based on feedback from the company and their own experience. After poring through literally hundreds of plays and musicals, the board winnows the choices down piece by piece, and after six weeks of intense study, discussion, and facebooking, they make their final choices with intense recommendations from me."

What is different this year is that instead of finding a theme that unites the productions after the shows are chosen, Guay said the student board began their process with a unifying theme already in place.

The theme this season, said Guay, is "A little something for everyone."

"Last March, the high school theatre hosted a huge event from one of our elementary schools," Guay said. "Before the concert started, a dad walked in, and I heard him say quietly, 'Wow, this is impressive!' (referring to the high school's state-of-the-art auditorium). And it got me thinking that despite our district's relative small size, many of our moms and dads don't know what lies ahead for their child as he/she goes through our system. We're very lucky to have the performing and fine arts facilities that we have at Avondale High School."

He said Avondale is lush with diversity on all levels, such as racial, ethnic, socio-economic, family-structure.

The district has four municipalities and six zip codes, so the only thing that unites this com-

munity is the school system.

"So I challenged the ATC board that we have to choose a (theme for the) season that brings in all the different demographics of our community, and to select shows that can define, express, highlight and celebrate the essence of Avondale," Guay said. "I commend the students for their very hard work and for putting aside some personal agendas to create a season that does just that."

The ATC board, elected by their peers, this year is com-

"We select shows that can define, express and celebrate the essence of Avondale."

– Edmond Guay

posed of seniors Joseph Howard, Melanie Walters, Stephanie Hubbard, and junior Mimi Asante. The board and Guay were also assisted in their selection process by community volunteer Matt Bramble, who assists in the scene shop, and former AHS teacher John Hepper.

This season will feature four mainstage shows, one more than normal, and the group will actually begin work in the summer on the first production. This season also will feature traveling one-acts that will provide a new outreach opportunity for the community.

Kicking off the year is "Schoolhouse Rock Live," which is obviously for children and focuses on learning in a fun way. "Schoolhouse Rock Live" opens the season with a four-show run Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 3, 4, 5 at 7:35 p.m. and a special matinee performance on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.

Next up, the ATC will turn its creative juices toward the scariest of all holidays, and for the

first time open a show on Halloween night – "An Evening of Mystery and Suspense." The show will feature three one-act plays focusing on the macabre, the eerie, and the unsettled. The three reflect the various time lines in the community.

The three one-acts are:

- "The Hitchhiker," by Lucille Fletcher, based on the Orson Welles radio drama from the 1940s and adapted from an episode of The Twilight Zone;

- "Sorry Wrong Number," also by Fletcher, based on the classic film noir from the 1950s starring Barbara Stanwyck;

- "The Film-Maker's Mystery," a very modern ghost story written by one of the creators of "Glee." The story is about a movie director who is the sole survivor of a violent train crash haunted by the undead souls of the crash's victims.

This fall series of three plays runs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, at 7:35 p.m.

For the winter, the ATC has chosen "The Brick and the Rose" – Lewis John Carlino's tale of Tommy, a boy born in the slums, who tries desperately to escape the vicious cycle of a world filled with hate and emptiness.

The popular 1978 musical, "The Wiz," which starred Michael Jackson, will round out the season.

In addition, the group puts on a program called, "Black Box," which is a series of simple, student-directed, one-act plays that are performed throughout the year and meant to bring theater to a wide variety of patrons but in an intimate setting and produced on a "zero" budget.

All performances are put on at The Avondale Performing Arts Center in Avondale High School, at 2800 Waukegan in Auburn Hills, off Squirrel Road between South Blvd. and Auburn Road.

Tickets can be reserved for all productions by calling the ATC any time at 248-537-6210.

The ATC also has more production information on its website, www.avondaledrama.com, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AvondaleTheatreCompany.

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